

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

VALENTINO JOHNSON,

Defendant.

NO. 14-CR-00412-TEH

**TRIAL RULES AND
PROCEDURES**

To ensure the orderly and efficient presentation of evidence at trial, the parties shall adhere to the following rules and procedures unless specifically ordered otherwise by the Court.

1. EXHIBITS

Before the first witness is called to testify, the parties shall identify and provide to the Court a list of all exhibits to which there is no objection regarding their admission into evidence. Such exhibits shall then be formally admitted into evidence at that time. When the Court recesses each day, counsel shall inform opposing counsel of which exhibits, if any, they intend to introduce during the next trial day. If any such exhibits are still objected to, counsel shall immediately notify the Court. The Court will then schedule an early conference, prior to the starting time of the next trial day, to resolve the dispute.

2. WITNESSES

(a) Counsel are expected to have sufficient witnesses ready to testify each trial day. In cases where the parties have been allocated a specific amount of trial time, any delays caused

1 by the failure to have sufficient witnesses ready shall be counted toward that party's
2 allocated time. Counsel are expected to cooperate with each other in the scheduling and
3 production of witnesses. Witnesses may be taken out of order if necessary. Every effort
4 should be made to avoid calling a witness twice (as an adverse witness and later as a party's
5 witness).

6 (b) Only one lawyer for each party may examine any single witness.

7 (c) If a witness is testifying at the time of a recess or adjournment and has not been
8 excused, the witness shall be seated back on the stand when the Court reconvenes. If a new
9 witness is to be called immediately following recess or adjournment, the witness should be
10 seated in the front row, ready to be sworn in.

11 (d) Counsel shall refrain from eliciting testimony regarding undisputed facts set forth
12 in the parties' joint pretrial conference statement. The Court may read to the jury such
13 undisputed facts at appropriate points in the trial.

14 (e) Counsel are instructed to have their witnesses review, prior to taking the stand, all
15 exhibits the counsel intends to question the witness about during direct examination.

16 (f) Immediately before each new witness takes the stand, counsel calling the witness
17 shall place on the witness stand a clearly marked copy of each exhibit that counsel expects to
18 have the witness refer to during his or her direct examination. Immediately before beginning
19 cross-examination, counsel conducting cross-examination shall do the same with any
20 additional exhibits to be referenced on cross.

21 (g) The deposition of an adverse party may be used for any purpose. It is
22 unnecessary to ask the witness if s/he "recalls" it or otherwise lay a foundation. Counsel
23 need only identify the deposition and page and line numbers and read the relevant portion.
24 Opposing counsel may then immediately ask to read any additional testimony that is
25 necessary to complete the context.

26 (h) The deposition of a non-party witness may be used for impeachment or if the
27 witness has been shown to be unavailable. For impeachment, counsel shall first allow the
28 witness to read to him- or herself the designated portion; then ask simply if the witness gave

1 that testimony; and then read the testimony into the record. Opposing counsel may
2 immediately ask to read additional testimony that is necessary to complete the context. If a
3 deposition is introduced because a witness is unavailable, counsel shall offer only relevant
4 portions of the deposition and may not offer the deposition wholesale.

5 (i) When the Court recesses each day, counsel shall inform opposing counsel of
6 which witnesses they intend to call during the next trial day.

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8 **3. OBJECTIONS**


9 To make an objection, counsel shall rise, say “objection,” and briefly state the legal
10 ground (e.g., “hearsay” or “irrelevant”). There shall be no “speaking objections” or
11 argument from either counsel unless requested by the Court.

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13 **4. SIDEBARS**

14 Bench conferences, or the equivalent of “sidebars,” will not be permitted absent truly
15 extenuating circumstances. Disputes regarding exhibits shall be resolved as set forth in
16 paragraph 1 above. Any other disputes or problems should be addressed either before the
17 trial day commences, at the end of the trial day, or during a recess, if necessary.

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19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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21 Dated: 08/19/15

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23 _____
24 THELTON E. HENDERSON, JUDGE
25 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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